THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) As per the estimates available from the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), labour force in the country on usual status basis grew at the rate of around 1.03 per cent per annum during 1994—2000.

(c) It is estimated that around 5.35 per cent of the labour force have received formal vocational training. This does not include those who have acquired training and skill through informal methods including training in the family.

Amendment in the labour laws

2300. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have amended the labour laws; and

(b) if so, the rules and regulations being included by Government in the labour laws?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Review of Labour Laws is a continuous process which is undertaken keeping in view the emerging needs of stakeholders. Accordingly, in the recent past, amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, the Trade Unions Act, 1926 and the Cine Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981 were notified on 08.12.2000 03.09.2001 and 14.12.2001 respectively. As per provisions of the various Acts, rules and regulations are framed by the competent authority.

Abolition of child labour

2301. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of States have failed in abolishing the menace of child labour for their respective States despite repeated directions from Government and the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details of such States and the details of industries in which these child labour exists;

(c) whether it is a fact that many children have lost their lives working in these factories/industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the effective steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Central Government to end this menace at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) In accordance with the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, the National Policy on Child Labour was formulated by the Union Government in 1987. The policy envisages a sequential action-oriented approach for the abolition of child labour. The State Governments are implementing this policy as well as the verdict of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 465/86 on 10.12.1996. However, child labour is a problem which is socio-economic in nature and is a result of poverty and illiteracy in the society. The fundamental problem regarding poverty and illiteracy need to be tackled effectively in order to abolish the menace of child labour from our country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The problem of child labour requires to be dealt through sustained efforts and the Government is committed to the goal of elimination of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour beginning with the children working in the hazardous occupations and processes. The action plan adopted by the Government to eliminate child abour comprises of legislative measures, general development programmes for benefiting children and a project based action plan in areas of high concentration of child labour. Under the NCLP Scheme, the children are withdrawn from work and put into special schools. They are provided basic education, vocational training, mid-day meal and health check up in order to prepare them to be mainstreamed into formal schooling system. During the Ninth Plan, the NCLP Scheme was implemented in 100 districts of 13 child labour endemic states. The number of districts has been expanded to 250 districts in 20 States during the Tenth Plan.